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UNCLAS MADRID 001063

SIPDIS

PASS TO STUART LIPPE AND KIMBER SHEARER

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SPAIN'S AID PROGRAM IN ANDEAN REGION

REF: STATE 27676

1. Econoff met March 13 with Spanish Agency for International Development (AECI) officials in the Subdirectorato General for South America to answer reftel questions. Our contacts noted that Andean countries have been priorities for Spanish Aid for several years, and that most Andean countries will continue to be recipients of Spanish aid under the New Spanish Assistance Plan for 2005-2008. Priority countries for Spanish assistance in the region are Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru for the low level of economic development and Colombia for the political violence that continues there. Venezuela will not be a Spanish official development assistance recipient in the new aid plan.

2. Our AECI contacts were able to provide figures for Spanish assistance in Andean countries from 2000-2003. They have not yet compiled assistance numbers for 2004 or developed individual country aid plans for 2005. The totals which include both reimbursable credits and non-reimbursable assistance for each country by year as follows. Note: negative numbers indicate years where receipts from previously granted credits outweighed new assistance. Numbers are given in the following format and int USD at an exchange rate of EUR 1=USD 1.34.

COUNTRY

2000

2001

2002

2003

Bolivia

32,580,049

45,530,813

43,634,878

61,029,986

Colombia

-2,317,234

35,561,308

57,911,639

17,019,797

Ecuador

16,157,265

25,570,529

89,933,222

29,146,485

Peru

26,927,375

40,714,078

47,382,536

52,591,768

Venezuela

40,913,444

17,070,285

41,160,696

42,303,997

3. Our contacts noted that the U.S. seemed more interested in Colombia than the rest of the region and were interested in our description of U.S. aid programs in Colombia. They said that Spanish aid to Colombia focuses on cementing peace, human rights issues and helping vulnerable populations. They noted that our AECI project managers in Andean countries are in regular contact with USAID country directors.

MANZANARES